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Maritime History: A Preliminary Hand-list of the Collection in the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, with a Special Section on Sir Francis Drake

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time or another have fallen victim to somebody's organizational essence.

On HI-LO mixes however, there is more than adequate room for rational men to disagree. The disagreement is fundamental because it has to do with the purpose of navies. Perhaps the bottom line is this—with the global reach demonstrated by the Soviet Navy, the level of threat that U.S. naval forces must face in any strategically significant area of the world is at Soviet initiative, not ours. I'm not sure how the low mix plays in that scenario.

On balance *New Technology and Military Power* is a fair treatment of the issues facing the services with respect to the future of General Purpose Forces and in a larger sense our overall national security. It is clearly focused toward those outside the defense community, however, and to the extent it may educate them it will be useful.

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Elliott, Daniel, comp. *Maritime History: A Preliminary Hand-list of the Collection in the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, with a Special Section on Sir Francis Drake*. Providence, R.I.: John Carter Brown Library, 1979. 335pp.

The John Carter Brown Library at Brown University has long been recognized as one of the nation's most distinguished research libraries. Its growing collection of books relating to America, printed before 1800, remains a major source for historians of the colonial period. It should not be at all surprising that such a collection also contains a distinguished group of books relating to maritime affairs. The early history of the Americas is so closely tied to the sea that it could not be neglected. Certainly, the discovery, exploration, trade, economy and colonial rivalry among the European powers are all related, in one manner or another, to the men and ships that plied the seas.

The origin of the library in the seafaring Brown family is reflected in the collection, and these original contributions have been specifically enhanced by the valuable gifts of Zechariah Chafee and his son, Dr. Francis Chafee. Over the years the library has been extensively used by many historians in the field of maritime history. The former librarian, Lawrence C. Wroth, drew attention to its riches through his justly famous study, *The Way of a Ship: An Essay on the Literature of Navigational Science* (1937) and through his later work, *Some American Contributions to the Art of Navigation 1519-1802* (1947) and *The Voyages of Giovanni da Verrazano 1524-28* (1970).

One of the immediate stimuli to the publication of this handlist was the academic programs at the Munson Institute of American Maritime History at Mystic Seaport. The Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library makes particular reference to the value that his collection has to the studies going on there that concentrate on the history of the American merchant marine. It would be no less true to note that this handlist is equally important to an even closer neighbor of Brown University, the Naval War College, and to all of us who concentrate our efforts in the study of naval history and maritime affairs. Indeed, our own collection of manuscripts and rare books in Newport provides a useful complement to both institutions. Nor should we forget our neighbors at Woods Hole, New Bedford, Salem, Providence and New London who work in related areas of maritime studies.

The present spiral-bound book is a preliminary handlist and finding aid, not an exhaustive study of the library's resources in this area. With the exception of the special section on Sir Francis Drake, a large collection of voyages has been excluded from the list. Although the larger group is missing, it is

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appropriate to have this particular section available on Drake now that the 400th anniversary of his circumnavigation of the globe has raised new interest.

The handlist is divided into 13 subject categories and includes both a subject and an author-title index. Within each subject area, the entries are arranged chronologically giving the author's name with a short title and abbreviated publication information. Occasional bibliographical notes give further information when the title of the work is not self-explanatory. The list of subjects includes books on

Navigation and seamanship, 1474-1883

Sailing directions, marine atlases and pilot guides, 1490-1875

Marine architecture, ship-construction and rigging, 1611-1893

Shipping, commerce and law of the sea, 1539-1877

Health, 1753-1877

Piracy and Privateering, 1603-1856

Shipwrecks, 1594-1865

Navies and Warfare, 1582-1830

Signals and naval tactics, 1714-1861

Marine dictionaries, 1644-1862

Bibliographies and Publisher's catalogs, 1629-1851

Sir Francis Drake, 1582-1890

Manuscripts: Sailing directions, marine atlases and pilot guides, 1511-1783.

While this collection is naturally the strongest in items that relate to America, it is not by any means limited to that subject. Valuable and useful material will also be found on other areas and published in Latin, French, Dutch, Italian, German, Portuguese and Spanish as well as in English. For historians working in this field, the handlist must immediately join the Albion bibliography and the specialized catalog of the Cruising Association Library, the National Maritime Museum, the Nederlandsch Historisch Scheepvaart Museum and the Scott Collection of the Royal Institute of Naval Archi-

facts as one of the most valuable bibliographical tools available. One hopes that a fully annotated and complete catalog is not too far in the future and that other research libraries will follow the fine example set by the John Carter Brown Library.

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Erickson, John and Feuchtwanger, E.J., eds. *Soviet Military Power and Performance*. London: Macmillan, 1979. 232pp.

Contrary to the implication of the title, this book is not a comprehensive primer on the Soviet military; it is, instead, a collection of papers on various topics relating to the Soviet military. Typical of any such collection, many of the papers are very informative, thoroughly researched, well-written and documented; others have glaring omissions and lack any sort of rigorous approach. Probably one of the greatest shortcomings of the book in general is a total failure to discuss some of the most important branches of the Soviet Armed Forces. In fact, the only branches covered are the Ground Forces, surface and subsurface arms of the Navy, Long-Range Aviation, and Frontal Aviation. The Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Defense of the Homeland forces (PVO Strany) and Soviet Naval Aviation are almost totally ignored.

Norman Stone provides the historical background of the Soviet Ground Forces in the first chapter. He traces the origins of the modern Red army to the Imperial Army of World War I in a concise, tightly written essay. Stone explains how all studies of the origins of the Soviet military must be performed through the framework of the great contrast that existed in the Russia of Lenin and Stalin between backwardness and modernity. There was a similar gulf between peasant soldier and educated officer, although the different origins of